

# DRAFT

## FORESTRY, LAND, & RECREATION COMMITTEE MINUTES

DATE: WEDNESDAY, JUNE 5, 2013 TIME: 9:00 a.m.  
PLACE: COMMITTEE ROOM #1, 2<sup>ND</sup> FLOOR, COURT HOUSE, RHINELANDER, WI

PRESENT: Chair Baier; Committee Members: Martinson, Rudolph, Shidell, Sorensen  
Forestry Staff: Bilogan, Bradley, Fiene.  
OTHERS: Thomas Wiensch, Corp Counsel, Lester Felbab, Bill Welsh, OCATVA. Guy Hansen, RASTA. Manny Oradei, DNR. Colin Phifer, Jose Lopez, and Michelle Cisz, MI Tech.

**CALL MEETING TO ORDER**— At 9:00 a.m. Chair Baier called the meeting to order, noting that it had been properly posted in accordance with the procedures set forth by the Wisconsin Open Meeting Law.

**APPROVE CURRENT AGENDA WITH THE ORDER OF AGENDA ITEMS AT CHAIR'S DISCRETION**— It was moved by Sorensen, seconded by Rudolph, to approve the current agenda with the order of agenda items at Chair's discretion. Motion carried.

**APPROVE MINUTES OF THE MAY 1, 2013 FORESTRY COMMITTEE MEETING**— It was moved by Sorensen, seconded by Martinson, to approve the minutes of the May 1, 2013 Forestry Committee meeting. All aye. Shidell abstained. Motion carried.

### **FOREST MANAGEMENT:**

- a) Fiene reported Year-to-Date Timber Stumpage Revenue is \$324,153.70.
- b) **TIMBER SALES FOR DISPOSITION**—It was moved by Shidell, seconded by Sorensen, to act on the following timber contract as follows:

**Contract # 1583** held by **NewPage Corp** was **closed** as satisfactorily completed, and return cash deposit in the amount of \$993.75. All aye, motion carried.

**ALMON PARK SHELTER UPDATE**—Bilogan reported that Forestry demolished the old pavilion and the Hwy dept has completed the excavation and base. Three bids for new construction were received. Martinson moved to accept the lowest bid of \$46,900 from Decker Lumber & Supply Company. Rudolph seconded. All aye, motion carried.

**DNR APPROVAL OF TOWNLINE PARK MODIFICATION PLAN**—Bilogan reported that DNR has approved the change of use for Townline Park. It will be changed to outdoor recreation, hiking, berry picking, etc. All amenities will be removed and only the first parking lot will remain open to allow use of the public boat landing. RASTA has requested permission to remove and reuse some of the structures. Shidell moved to move ahead with the change of use, and allow RASTA to recycle the structures in a timely manner. Sorensen seconded. All aye, motion carried.

**SHINGLE MILL ROAD PROJECT**—The DOT funding requires that forest roads comply with minimum widths. Shingle Mill Road, 8.1 miles in length, needs to be widened in places to meet the 16 foot width DOT requirement for County Forest roads. The Oneida County Highway Dept can do the work, including reshouldering and graveling at a cost of approximately \$11,000. The Forestry Committee liked the plan. No motion needed as described work is in the 2013 budget.

**2014 FORESTRY DEPARTMENT BUDGET PRIORITIES**—Bilogan provided a preliminary list of 2014 budgetary priorities. It will cost \$29,012 to widen the remaining forest roads in Enterprise in the next fiscal year. He is not yet sure whether the Almon Park Pavilion paving and electrical can fit into this year's budget, because the bids were higher than originally envisioned. If necessary, the 2014 budget may have to cover some of the completion costs. Sorensen moved to approve the priority list, Rudolph seconded. All aye, motion carried.

## **RASTA**

RASTA has requested a temporary camping permit for the third annual Rock'n Root Mountain Bike Race at Perch Lake Park on August 9-10, 2013. Bilogan recommended approval of the request with some contingencies. He has concern about routing the trail across the grassy area. He requests they either reroute or place a protective barrier over the grass. Sorensen moved to approve if RASTA will cooperate with the Forestry Dept requirements. Martinson seconded. There was discussion about the grass damage concern. RASTA feels it would be a safety issue to lay down a barrier. Bilogan is concerned because this year is not dry as in years past. Shidell requested an amendment to the motion, eliminating the requirement for a safety barrier. All aye, motion carried.

No action taken on Contractors Equipment Physical Damage Insurance. Referred to the Administration Committee.

**VOUCHERS & LINE ITEM TRANSFERS**—Moved by Shidell, seconded by Martinson to approve payment for the listed vouchers. All aye. Motion carried.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**— Guy Hanson asked for clarification on when RASTA can begin to build trails, now that they have applied for the RTA grant.

**MOVE TO CLOSED SESSION** Sorensen moved, Martinson seconded to adjourn into Closed Session pursuant to Section 19.85(1)(e) for deliberating or negotiating the purchasing of public properties, the investing of public funds, or conducting other specified public business, whenever competitive or bargaining reasons require a closed session. The specified public business to be discussed will be negotiations with a landowner concerning the use of an ATV trail on the landowner's property. A roll call vote was taken, all aye.

**RETURN TO OPEN SESSION.** No action was taken.

## **CORPORATION COUNSEL LETTER of APRIL 1, 2013: SNOWMOBILE TRAIL LIABILITY**

Corporation counsel summarized the potential issues that could arise with running trails across private property. Even though there is a state Recreational Immunity law, there is still potential for liability which our insurance will not cover. Another issue for landowners is the fact that people will dump appliances and garbage to avoid paying a fee at the landfill, and may gain access to their land via recreation trails.

**MICHIGAN TECH PhD RESEARCH REQUEST**—Three students of MI Tech asked for permission to enter County Forest land to sample for pollinators, birds, hydrology. It is not invasive and would not last past the fall. Shidell questioned whether liability to the county could incur. Phifer stated that MI Tech has insurance. Sorensen moved to approve, Rudolph seconded. All aye, motion carried.

## **FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**—

- The committee would like to see a plan and map of RASTA's proposed additions and reroutes to the Washburn Bike Trail.
- Corporation counsel will update committee on closed session items.

**ADJOURNMENT**—With business completed, it was moved by Sorensen, seconded by Rudolph, to adjourn the meeting at 10:45 a.m. All aye. Motion carried.

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GARY BAIER  
CHAIR

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JILL BRADLEY  
RECORDING SECRETARY